

105TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4289

To provide for the purchase by the Secretary of the Interior of the Wilcox ranch in Eastern Utah for management as wildlife habitat.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 1998

Mr. HANSEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

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## A BILL

To provide for the purchase by the Secretary of the Interior of the Wilcox ranch in Eastern Utah for management as wildlife habitat.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Wilcox Ranch Wildlife  
5       Habitat Acquisition Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. ACQUISITION AND MANAGEMENT OF WILCOX**  
7       **RANCH, UTAH, FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT.**

8       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

9               (1) The lands within the Wilcox Ranch in east-  
10       ern Utah are prime habitat for wild turkeys, eagles,

1        hawks, bears, cougars, elk, deer, bighorn sheep, and  
2        many other important species, and Range Creek  
3        within the Wilcox Ranch could become a blue ribbon  
4        trout stream.

5            (2) These lands also contain a great deal of un-  
6        disturbed cultural and archeological resources, in-  
7        cluding ancient pottery, arrowheads, and rock homes  
8        constructed centuries ago.

9            (3) These lands, while comprising only approxi-  
10       mately 3,800 acres, control access to over 75,000  
11       acres of Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the  
12       Bureau of Land Management.

13           (4) Acquisition of the Wilcox Ranch would ben-  
14       efit the people of the United States by preserving  
15       and enhancing important wildlife habitat, ensuring  
16       access to lands of the Bureau of Land Management,  
17       and protecting priceless archeological and cultural  
18       resources.

19           (5) These lands, if acquired by the United  
20       States, can be managed by the Utah Division of  
21       Wildlife Resources at no additional expense to the  
22       Federal Government.

23        (b) ACQUISITION OF LANDS.—As soon as practicable,  
24       after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary  
25       of the Interior shall acquire, through purchase, the Wilcox

1 Ranch in eastern Utah, as depicted on the map entitled  
2 “Wilcox Ranch Acquisition”, dated July 15, 1998.

3 (c) FUNDS FOR PURCHASE.—The Secretary of the  
4 Interior is authorized to use not more than \$5,000,000  
5 from the land and water conservation fund established  
6 under section 2 of the Land and Water Conservation Fund  
7 Act of 1965 (16 U.S.C. 460l–5) for the purchase of the  
8 Wilcox Ranch under subsection (b).

9 (d) MANAGEMENT OF LANDS.—Immediately upon  
10 completion of the purchase of Wilcox Ranch under sub-  
11 section (b), the Secretary of the Interior shall transfer all  
12 right, title, and interest of the United States in the surface  
13 estate to such lands to the State of Utah for management  
14 by the State Division of Wildlife Resources for wildlife  
15 habitat and public access.

16 (e) REVERSIONARY INTEREST.—If the Secretary of  
17 the Interior determines at any time that the lands trans-  
18 ferred under subsection (d) are not being managed as pro-  
19 vided in such subsection, all right, title, and interest in  
20 and to the lands shall revert to the United States, and  
21 the United States shall have immediate right of entry  
22 thereon.

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